

DETERMINERS Overview and Charts

There are seven so called *der words* in German:

| | |
|--------|--|
| d- | <i>the (definite article)</i> |
| welch- | <i>what, which</i> |
| dies- | <i>this</i> |
| jed- | <i>each, every, all the (+ sg. noun)</i> |
| solch- | <i>such, this kind of</i> |
| manch- | <i>some, there are those that...</i> |
| jen- | <i>that, those over there</i> |

There are eleven so called *ein words* in German

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| ein- | <i>a, an (indefinite article)</i> |
| kein- | <i>not a, no</i> |
| mein- | <i>my</i> |
| dein- | <i>your</i> |
| sein- | <i>his</i> |
| ihr- | <i>her</i> |
| sein- | <i>its</i> |
| unser- / unsr- | <i>our</i> |
| euer- / eur- | <i>your</i> |
| ihr- | <i>their</i> |
| Ihr- | <i>your</i> |

(possessive adjectives)

All determiners have the following traits:

- They can not stand alone. They must precede a noun.
- They must take case & gender markers based on that noun.
- Only one determiner can precede a noun, no more.)
- Determiners form a syntactic unit with their noun.

1. I'm drinking no coffee. (I'm not drinking coffee.)
2. What table are you buying. (which table)
3. This book is interesting.
4. My brother is sick.
5. Do you know my husband?
6. Do you know my wife?
7. Many students are lazy.
(There are those students who are lazy.)
8. What book are you reading? (which book)
9. All the students are working. (Each student works.)
10. Where is your car (you guys) ?
11. I don't have any money. (I have no money.)
12. What students are here? (which students?)
13. We are giving my father a pen.
14. They are showing our children a movie.

The *der words* take the following case & gender markers:

| | m | f | n | pl |
|------------|---|---|---|----|
| nominative | r | e | s | e |
| accusative | n | e | s | e |
| dative | m | r | m | n |
| genitive | s | r | s | r |

Insert *e* before consonant endings.

Exception: The definite article in neut. nom. & neut. acc. is *das*.

The *ein words* take the following case & gender markers:

| | m | f | n | pl |
|------------|---|---|---|----|
| nominative | ø | e | ø | e |
| accusative | n | e | ø | e |
| dative | m | r | m | n |
| genitive | s | r | s | r |

Insert *e* before consonant endings.

The *ø* indicates a zero ending on *ein words*.

Examine the German examples below.

Try creating your own sentences.

Be sure to identify the case and gender of every noun!

1. Ich trinke keinen Kaffee.
2. Welchen Tisch kaufst du?
3. Dieses Buch ist interessant.
4. Mein Bruder ist krank.
5. Kennst du meinen Mann?
6. Kennst du meine Frau?
7. Manche Studenten sind faul.
8. Welches Buch liest du?
9. Jeder Student arbeitet.
10. Wo ist euer Auto?
11. Ich habe kein Geld.
12. Welche Studenten sind hier?
13. Wir geben meinem Vater einen Kugelschreiber.
14. Sie zeigen unsren Kindern einen Film.